

The " Bounty ^{f>} and the "Duff"

saying : " If God had not sent His
word at the
time He did, wars, infanticide, human
sacrifices
etc., would have made an end of the
small rem-
nant of the nation/" That was in 1815,
almost
fifty years after the discovery of the
islands.

Now within two pages Mr. Ellis is
himself tell-
ing us of the introduction of disease,
especially
venereal, and writing : " the maladies
originally
prevailing among them, appear,
compared with
those by which they are now afflicted,
to have
been few in number and mild in
character " ; of
the terrible effects of the use of
gunpowder which
Pomare first obtained from the
mutineers of the
Bounty and of the " demoralisation,
crimes and
misery" which followed the teaching
to the
Tahitians of " the art of distillation "
and the im-
portation of " ardent spirits" among a
people
whose only previous intoxicant had been
" sedative
frather than inebriating/" " tabued for

the chiefs "
and " strictly prohibited " to the
common people.

He then adds:

" These (three) causes operating upon
a, people,
Whose simple habits of diet rendered
their con-
stitutions remarkably susceptible of
violent im-